

of many years of peace — most probably for a century to come we shall have none, or but few years of war. Our legislation therefore, to be wise, should be adapted to that state which is not only the natural, but likely, by the blessing of God, to be the most durable. But, in time of war — putting out of view other means of supply — our commercial marine, to which an opposite policy would give rapid growth and development, under cover of our gallant navy, would supply all our wants. But, sir, is it wise, is it just, to inflict a certain evil upon the *whole people* for the benefit of a *few* to the extent of a tax of near two and a half millions of dollars yearly, to guard against the contingency of a war which is not likely to happen, but which, if it came, can bring with it, in this respect, but very slight and temporary evils? Sir, look to the Tariff upon this single article, and the effects which will be produced by twenty-five years perseverance. In twenty five years, at the present and the necessarily increasing rates, the people of the United States will have paid to the sugar planters of Louisiana, more than eighty millions of dollars — a sum nearly equal to the debt of the revolution — the price of our liberties, and for what benefit? Will they be able to purchase domestic sugar cheaper after having paid this tax for 25 years? No sir, nor as cheap as the foreign. The cost of production will be necessarily greater in Louisiana than in the finer climates.

Then, Sir, how are the people to be indemnified for paying this eighty millions of dollars to the sugar planter? No one has told, and no one can tell. Then, Sir, where is the benefit? The direct benefit goes exclusively to the sugar planters — the recipients of the tax — but an indirect benefit arises to the other bandit interests, by securing the vote of Louisiana, to enable them to make similar exactions from the great planting interest of the country. Sir, is there any intelligent man who believes that if the sugar planters were the only persons in the country seeking protection from Congress, ten votes, aye, a single vote, could be obtained beyond the limits of Louisiana, in favor of an imposition of an annual tax of four millions of dollars for their benefit? No man believes it.

If, then, this subject has nothing intrinsic to justify this tax, how does it acquire any additional merit by its connexion with other protected interests? Sir, this tax has no merit, and ought instantly to be reduced to a mere revenue tax. Even then